

THE MYSTICISM OF TERESIAN EDUCATION

Teresian Educational Proposal. Society of Saint Teresa of Jesus.

It seems that the task ahead for EDUCATION in our 21st century is to aim for the SPIRITUAL AND MORAL ELEVATION OF HUMANITY, working to build a PEACEFUL, NON-VIOLENT COEXISTENCE with a DEMOCRATIC, INTERCULTURAL, INCLUSIVE, AND SOLIDARITY-BASED, and to commit to the formation of INDIVIDUALS and SOCIETIES that, from “within” and from diverse identities, are AGENTS OF ENCOUNTER and SOCIAL TRANSFORMERS.

In our Teresian charism, we find strands that, through spirituality, can inform a type of EDUCATION aimed at rebuilding the social fabric based on the vision of Jesus Christ, connecting the God who dwells within us with humanity, as a response to the deepest aspirations for integrity, freedom, dignity, and love in communion.

We educate by educating ourselves

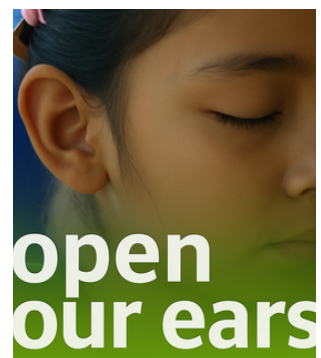
To commit ourselves to this task in a new way and with renewed enthusiasm, we EDUCATORS must renew our vocation.

We need to AWAKEN



1. OPEN OUR EYES to see not only the images the media wants to sell us, knowing that behind them lie not the faces of people, but the interests of accumulation. To stop consuming all the information that overwhelms and confuses us, and to learn to choose what nourishes us. Look without fear at that which does not conform to the standards of beauty internalized from our own culture, but which exists and is there, waiting to be recognized so it can reveal its value to us. Look with the heart.

2. OPEN OUR EARS to listen attentively to accounts, personal stories that speak to us of different cultural contexts of ANOTHER HISTORY. In this way, we will understand why things happen as they do, why people think as they do, why they act in one way or another, and we will be more respectful of differing opinions and better able to engage in dialogue.



touch the suffering

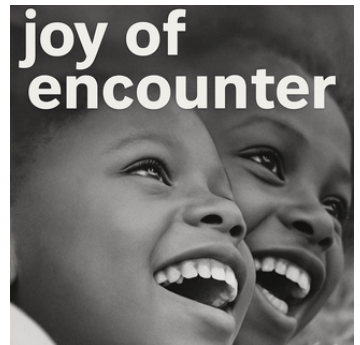


3. Dare to **TOUCH THE SUFFERING** caused by

violence, especially the violence we have internalized, when we believe that the law of the strongest must prevail because it is a condition for survival, even though it legitimizes inequalities that deprive people of life and finds justifications for not sharing what has been accumulated. If we touch the suffering and give it a name, we will express, through the appropriate gesture, the compassion and solidarity that arise from recognizing that we are part of the same family and that “what you suffer” concerns me. We will dispel the fear of feeling, of suffering with, of enjoying, and we will get to work collaborating in acts of solidarity. We must engage with this to give birth to a commitment and responsibility for the care of life.

4. Rediscover the **JOY OF ENCOUNTER, affection and**

tenderness, trust, making space for silence, noticing beauty... because having pursued a competitive path, seeking efficiency and profitability, it seems we have lost that joy. When we meet, we will see that we are equal, and because we share the same dignity, we deserve the same rights and must be accountable for one another. From a place of trust, we will undertake constructive actions, drawing on our existing knowledge and what we can build through continuous learning, relying on the wisdom of so many generations to whom we are indebted, and understanding that any project will be more creative the more we participate and cooperate.



5. Learning to **PERCEIVE the fragrance of the living**

God’s presence within us and in all reality will allow us to welcome what He reveals to us in every situation and to choose it, for that is what will be of value to us. From our fidelity to God and His Word, we will be able to carry out our educational mission and accompany other generations—new or old—who also have much to teach us. We will do this by sharing our thirst for God and His message, with those of our own faith and with an openness to others. Along the way, we will be encouraged by the experience of the witnesses we know—disciples of Jesus Christ—and those who have gone before us. And we will do this because we are certain that this experience reveals divine Love and Truth, which are the only things that unite, illuminate, and warm our world.

